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ABSTRACT

This book compiles the best selections from the Chukchi News and Information Service, a University of Alaska project that for the past decade, has published the writings of Native college students from rural and remote regions of Alaska. The writers are primarily nontraditional older students who are Inupiaq, Yup'ik, or Siberian Yup'ik Eskimos or Athabascan Indians. An introduction reviews the recent history of economic and cultural change in rural Alaska and the ways in which rural Alaska Natives are finding success in a cross-cultural world through education. The 52 selections are organized in 5 sections: autobiography (growing up in the Arctic, lessons learned from grandparents and other family members); rural Alaska life (hunting, fishing, food preparation, other subsistence skills); stories of the North (memorable experiences); formal schooling (culture conflict and other unpleasant school experiences, lack of true Native history in textbooks, an Inupiaq educator's efforts to link elders and students, village English, learning about computers, student persistence to obtain a college degree); and traditional and Western cultures (missionaries, customs related to death and funerals, Eskimo dancing, cultural values, marriage, racial discrimination, overcoming alcoholism, intergenerational conflicts, balancing family life and work away from home). Contains a glossary, author profiles, an index, and photographs. (SV)

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